

JUNE . . . 1948

The INTERNATIONAL TEAMSTER



Official Magazine

THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS • CHAUFFEURS • WAREHOUSEMEN & HELPERS OF AMERICA

No Comment on Politics, Yet

HIDDEN machinery is working just now trying to get the Teamsters and their representatives involved in the political situation. We emphasize we are not committing ourselves at this time. The newspapers announce that President Truman is going out to the Northwest. He is to be a guest of the governor of the State of Washington.

That governor is a great friend of the Teamsters and of labor as is Senator Magnuson of the same state. There is no better friend of labor in the United States Senate.

We hope that our friends in political life and especially in the labor movement will watch their step and not commit themselves before the proper time to those baying beagles that are running around trying to influence you or to smoke you out.

Don't fall for their treachery or their traps, no matter which party it is, until your International Union and those you have elected to office lay out a policy for you.

Remember your first obligation is not that your brother-in-law may be a self-instituted candidate for some political office. Your first consideration is the labor union of which you are a member.

You have sworn that this union of ours would be always foremost in your mind. Any officer of a union who forgets this obligation and listens to the politicians who are sent out to entertain him is not fit or worthy, morally or mentally, to represent the labor movement or this Brotherhood of Teamsters.

He should be watched by the membership. We want results for our people, not a job or our names in the headlines.

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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS
CHAUFFEURS . . . WAREHOUSEMEN AND HELPERS

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JUNE, 1948

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Blunder of One Union Hurts All

Coal Strike Affects Teamsters and All Other Workers

By DANIEL J. TOBIN

IT IS sometimes considered inappropriate or indecorous for one labor union to discuss or criticize the actions of another.

Usually this is not done. In the past, it was done. It was often due to hatreds and jealousies amongst the officers of the labor movement.

Times have changed materially in recent years and the success or blunders of one labor union can substantially affect all other labor unions even though they are not involved in the controversy.

When a large industry is tied up by a strike which paralyzes the nation, it affects many other labor unions. Even though the labor union on strike may feel justified, the effects of its action are not confined to itself.

For instance, in a coal strike which paralyzes the nation after 30 days, thousands of Teamsters can be involved as can thousands of Steel Workers and Automobile Workers and nearly all the other large manufacturing and transportation trades.

This does not intend to say that the Mine Workers, under their autonomous right, have not the right to run their own business.

It does intend to convey the message, however, that the success or failure of any one union can seriously affect all other labor unions.

Therefore, the necessity and the absolute obligation of the officials of any particular labor union considering a strike is to do everything in their power, even to the extent of making some sacrifices to the other side in

order to protect their millions of trade union fellow workers who may be persecuted and penalized and weakened by adverse labor legislation which might ensue from a stoppage of work that would paralyze the industrial life of our nation as well as weaken the military and moral strength of our government.

I take second place to no man or institution in my love for my country and in my life's determination to make any sacrifice necessary for the preservation of this government. But I do say that my country, when it gets into the hands of extreme labor haters and large corporations, has made many mistakes. Next to my love for my country and for the principles on which it is founded, is the labor movement.

Everything there is in me is dedicated to protecting the rights and bettering the living conditions of the million members in the Teamsters' Union, always considering the public interest and the welfare of the other millions in organized labor. That has, and will be, my goal; the mission of my life.

As I said at the enactment of the Taft-Hartley law and I repeat now, the greatest injustice that could possibly be done to the myriads of the working people in our country was the passage of the Taft-Hartley law. I shall continue as long as I am spared in life to fight against this injustice.

At the same time I fully realize that I must endeavor to obey the law because it is the law until we are successful in amending or repealing that law which I say to you now will be done

some day, no matter how long we have to wait.

At this writing I had just received the information that the representatives of three railroad brotherhoods agreed to abide by the injunction issued by the federal courts and ordered their membership to remain at work.

This was the only thing they could have done. They could not stand up and defy the government.

The question is, did they have to go as far as they went, knowing, as they must have known, that there was no other alternative except what happened?

The three brotherhoods, only one of which can be considered a large organization, are part of the great railroad division which has headquarters in Washington and which is composed of a great part of the membership of 22 international unions. Two of the brotherhoods threatening to strike were independent unions.

One organization, the Switchmen, is affiliated and chartered by the American Federation of Labor and it is a fine, sensible, high class, militant organization.

However, it must be recognized that two-thirds of the switchmen now employed by the railroads, as nearly as we can ascertain, are members of the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen.

The Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen had not agreed to participate in the strike so that the result would be, if a strike took place, that the Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen might take into membership those switchmen who are now members of the Switchmen's Union of North America.

At any rate, President Whitney of the Trainmen had agreed to the increase granted by the Fact Finding Board appointed by the President and

had accepted the 15½ cents an hour increase in wages.

Consequently, he had by this action given notice that his membership would continue working. That was true of the other organizations such as the Brotherhood of Railway Clerks and the Brotherhood of Railway Carmen and the other 16 unions that are part of the Railroad Division of organized labor.

Why then did the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen, the Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and the Switchmen decide to refuse to accept the decision of the Fact Finding Board after it had been accepted by 19 other international unions whose membership is almost entirely or partly employed on railroads?

Can we be pardoned for asking this question—was it jealousy or ambition that prompted such action?

We refuse to believe such was the case, but those wise men running those three organizations should have remembered what happened to the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen some two years ago when they took a position contrary to the majority of the railroad workers.

In two days that organization had been denounced from every platform and by every newspaper in the country and by the President of the United States.

It was denounced to such an extent that although it had completely tied up the railroads for two days, the officers of the union were compelled to withdraw their order of strike and to insist that their membership return to work immediately. Surely the railroad men like Davy Robertson cannot forget this.

We remember the denouncement of President Truman by Mr. Whitney but since that time Mr. Whitney has

withdrawn that denouncement and has in recent months come out and espoused the re-election of President Truman. Whether he remains in that position up to election time is something that nobody knows except Mr. Whitney.

A large part of the membership of the Teamsters are employees of the railroads either directly or indirectly. We were not covered by the Railway Labor Act then. We are not covered by that act now.

The brotherhoods were responsible for the passage of the Railway Labor Act. They thought they had done the greatest thing for their membership that could possibly be done at that time.

They find now, however, that the Railway Labor Act embodying mediation is not what they believed it to be. Many of them are dissatisfied.

They are not covered by the Taft-Hartley law, but rotten and disgusting as the Taft-Hartley law is, most organizations can strike under the Taft-Hartley law and in passing let us say that we have had more labor trouble since the passage of the Taft-Hartley law than we had in the years before it.

Even under the Taft-Hartley law you can strike. You may be delayed, it may take some time, but you can strike.

However, if it is a national strike and a national emergency, the President can ask the courts to give him power to either take over the industry or to declare it a national emergency. Then a federal judge can grant an injunction restraining the organization from striking or ordering the men back to work if they are on strike, as happened in the case of the United Mine Workers.

This thing of saying "we will not go

back to work" is only bunk. Men can't fight the United States government and I cannot believe that our American citizens want to fight their government even though they believe the government has made a mistake.

At any rate, we have no chance in the courts because we can be fined millions of dollars both as individual officers and as large, strong international unions. There is no sense or pleasure in taking the pennies, nickels and dimes paid into the treasury of an international union and handing them over to the government by the millions because of the decision of some federal judge who perhaps never was able to make a decent living practicing private law.

We may need that money we have placed in our treasury as the contributions from our membership to help finance thousands of members who may be thrown out of employment should any serious depression come as we had from 1930 until 1934.

Then we had millions of men and women walking the streets begging for a crust of bread or something to pay their rent so they could have a roof over their heads, or selling apples or pencils to keep their children from starving.

Oh, you say it cannot happen again. I say you are mistaken; it can and will happen again. The question is, how long before it takes place?

We all believed that the first World War was a war to abolish future wars. A few years rolled by and we were confronted with a second war to which we were opposed but in which we were forced to become involved. We are now wondering and hoping and praying that there will not be a third war. We are not half as safe from a third war, which may destroy civilization through

atomic energy and air power, as we thought we were from a second war when the Armistice was signed in November, 1918, and when Germany and her allies surrendered on unconditional terms.

Great mass, national strikes should be prevented even if we have to make some slight sacrifices.

The Railway Labor Act provides for the setting up of an unprejudiced board by the President for the purpose of going into the facts on both sides of the question. I remember very well that it was understood that the Fact Finding Board's decision would be final and binding on all parties involved.

It is true it was not written into the law that such a board was a final board of arbitration but it could have been written into the law and it would have been accepted by both sides at that time.

However, it was not written into the law even though it was believed to be a final board of arbitration.

It is true also that President Roosevelt at one time, because of his great love for the members of the Railroad Brotherhoods and because we were in war, had another board review the decision of his first Fact Finding Board and its finding was in the interest of the railway workers.

But we were in war at that time. Labor was scarce and railroad men were tired from working overtime under a terrible strain.

President Roosevelt, whose eye always looked to the future, had a new board change the original decision.

The railroad workers believed that this could be done again. But we are not now in war. Conditions and times are much different and we repeat, the intent and purpose of the Railway Labor Act was that the board's decision

would be final and binding until the next wage contract came up for consideration.

The Teamsters recently had a decision rendered against them by a so-called Fact Finding Board in relation to the Railway Express Agency which is controlled and owned by five or six railroad corporations.

I won't go into the merits of the case but our membership in Chicago and other cities were asking that the rules be changed to be similar or equal in certain conditions to the Metropolitan Area of New York, including Jersey City.

The Fact Finding Board refused to grant Chicago and other large cities the hours constituting a week's work which obtain in New York.

Now, it is just as strenuous and difficult to drive a truck for an express company in Cleveland or Chicago or other cities in the Middle West as it is in New York City, but the Fact Finding Board disagreed with our claims and we accepted the decision.

We felt morally bound to accept the decision. I suppose we could vote to go on strike as was done by the railroad organizations, but where would that get us?

We would lose perhaps weeks in wages, then the government would issue an order or some federal judge would issue an injunction compelling us to go back to work.

So, although fully dissatisfied with the decision, we accepted it with the right to bring the matter up again at a later date. We believe that some day we will be granted the just requests which were recently refused.

We know we could not beat the companies, the railroads and the government in trying to set aside the decision of the Fact Finding Board. Con-

sequently, we accepted the decision, which we believe was the only business-like, strategic position to take, and wait for another day.

You see why all labor should be interested in the decisions of international unions which affect the entire nation. We are all affected and we are all liable to suffer by the enactment of further antagonistic labor legislation.

I have repeatedly said that because of the actions of labor unions in some instances, the mob now in power in Washington took advantage of mistakes they described as threats against the nation and enacted the Taft-Hartley law.

We might have gotten something similar to the Taft-Hartley law anyway, but we would never have gotten it as bad as it is, in my judgment, were it not for the actions of some unions.

Many things happened during the war that I personally was dissatisfied with, especially some of the decisions of the War Labor Board which I helped to create because I realized there was no other way out of it.

Our nation and the world was threatened with destruction by Hitler and Mussolini and the others in that mob of murderers.

We had to have the War Labor Board but sometimes the decisions were so rotten and unfair that it was difficult to accept them. We waited and we won and we helped to save our country and the world from destruction.

It would be well for the membership in the labor movement to understand that while we may be powerful today and may have some strength and influence, the day will come when that power can be taken from us, especially while we remain divided as we are.

Those in great power should remem-

ber that they can lose that power through economic conditions or through world disasters and the thing to do is to look ahead and see where your actions will lead you. We should be guided and governed by the experiences of the past.

Any labor leader and his associates can bring about a general paralysis of industry in their respective cities. All my life I have fought and will continue to fight against any law that prevents me from striking collectively or stopping work as an individual. But I repeat that men with the brains and the courage to prevent strikes are the men who will continue to advance and to better the conditions of their membership.

The railroad membership are great union men. They have made great strides in their time but they can also make mistakes. We hope that the conditions they have now failed to win will come to them some day in the near future without the necessity of tying up the nation and throwing it and its myriads of working people into a condition of almost total paralysis.

Before that day comes there will have to be one body of organized workers in America. There cannot be three or four organizations of labor. One organization of labor embodying all, settling their disputes within their organization, should be our objective.

With such an organization we can elect to office men in both state and federal governments who will look at the human side of the United States, who will understand the aspirations of the millions of the working people who are 95 per cent of our population.

When there are such men elected we will have no orders going out from the government to suppress strikes or take

over industry for the benefit of the nation. I pray that I can live to see that day when there is one solidified

labor movement in our country. If men refuse to be united, they don't deserve freedom.

Daylight Time Cuts Light Bills

That's Why Electric Corporations Oppose It

EVERY spring before the East and Midwest go on daylight saving time, an outcry arises. A lot of silly arguments are raised that the time change is bad for the farmer and that God himself looks with disapproval on any tampering with the clocks.

One of the arguments in behalf of the farmer is that it upsets the cows. The cows, of course, have their eyes on the clocks and if the clocks read an hour later when the farmer finishes milking, the cows think they have worked an hour longer and demand overtime.

Another argument is that standard time is "God's time." That is even sillier. Time-telling is a device worked out by man and the system of computing it has varied over the centuries. At best it is very crude. Why, for instance, should it be an hour later on one side of the street than the other? Yet that is the condition at the boundaries of each time zone.

The truth is that the opposition to daylight saving time is inspired for profit. Daylight time is opposed by the electric power companies because it cuts an hour from the time that people must burn electric lights.

It makes no difference to the electricity trust that people have an hour longer each evening to work in their gardens or enjoy the sunlight. The corporations are not happy because of the healthier living that daylight time permits their employees and the public.

They are annoyed because a man is

out mowing his lawn in the daylight instead of reading his paper by an electric light.

And so, each year, the opposition to daylight time reappears.

It doesn't get anywhere because most people enjoy the extra hour of daylight in the evening. But these people have not realized why the perennial attempt is made to take it from them.

These are the same electric power companies that have curtailed the development of the Tennessee Valley Authority. They are opposing the Missouri Valley Authority.

And they fought viciously to prevent President Roosevelt from constructing the Grand Coulee dam. If the electric trust was interested in the farmers it would favor such power developments.

Cheap power has done more for the farmers than anything else. But cheap power was never available until the government itself provided it.

Then the private companies, with red faces, reduced their rates to match the public rates. And they still continued to make enormous profits. But they are blocking the Missouri Valley project and they are stifling the Tennessee Valley project.

And now they want to chisel a few more pennies out of their customers by depriving them of an hour of outdoor recreation each evening.

It's not "God's time" they are trying to give us. It is God's sunlight they are trying to take away.

Seek 75-Cent Minimum Wage

Did Wages Go Up with Profits? No indeed!

WE ARE trying everything possible to increase the minimum wage for interstate work from 40 cents to 75 cents an hour.

This law establishing the minimum wage of 40 cents an hour was pushed through by President Roosevelt several years ago.

It was mainly designed to help the poor, hungry common laborers of the South who were entirely unorganized.

At that time we found them working in mills, whole families, at 10 cents or 12 cents an hour.

How they lived it is impossible to understand. We know they could not live now on the wages paid at that time.

President Roosevelt and the labor movement were endeavoring to make the minimum 50 cents an hour but the reactionaries from the South and their staunch allies who protect big business in the North cut it down to 40 cents.

We have had the bill raising the minimum to 75 cents before the lawmakers in Washington for months and months but we have been unable to get any action on it.

Again the treachery and the influence of the labor-hating corporations and the power of their lobbies have been able to stifle this very necessary legislation.

The cost of living has doubled since we put through the minimum of 40 cents per hour for those engaged in any kind of interstate commerce outside of farming and domestic help. We may not get any action on the 75-cent legislation until after the election.

It is known that many robberies and other crimes are committed as a result of hunger and poverty. A man with a family getting only 40 cents an hour for 40 hours a week becomes desperate.

One large department store in Indianapolis employs a man for general labor at 40 cents an hour. He works 40 hours a week for \$16. This man has seven children and how he feeds them is impossible to understand.

*If this department store, which is only a sample of other department stores, was not making any money there might be some excuse.

Its financial report, however, reveals the profits last year were the highest in the history of the company.

In fact the profits last year surpassed all expectations.

Communism breeds and prospers on discontent.

Corporations that hold their wages down to 40 cents an hour while profits break all records are asking for trouble. Eventually, they may get it.

LUST FOR PROFITS PROMOTES TURMOIL

You can't legislate labor peace. Labor peace must come from an appreciation of the aims of the bargaining parties and an honest effort to stabilize the American economy. At the moment it appears that a lust for profits, as evidenced by official reports of fabulous profits last year, is giving the wage earner a beating. If industry is really serious about its desires to bring prices in line, it had better start coming down now on those prices.—*Duluth Labor World*.

Open Shop in 13 States!

NLRB Announces No Union Shop Elections Will Be Held

By LESTER M. HUNT

UNION SHOP elections have been suspended in 13 states by the National Labor Relations Board.

This means that the union shop is out and the open shop is in.

This action was taken on May 21 by a three to two vote of the board under Section 14 of the Taft-Hartley Act, which states:

"Nothing in this act shall be construed as authorizing the execution or application of agreements requiring membership in a labor organization as a condition of employment in any state or territory in which such execution or application is prohibited by state or territorial law."

Thus the framers of the Taft-Hartley Act have laid down the revolutionary policy that where a state law conflicts with a federal law, the state law is supreme.

According to that theory, the southern states could revive slavery. And that is the direction in which we are heading.

The Taft-Hartley Act restores "state's rights" over national rights.

Has Congress forgotten the Civil War?

Or have southern reactionaries taken such complete control of Congress that it is no longer an assembly concerned with the welfare of the nation?

The issue of "state's rights" was fought and decided on the battlefields during the four bloody years of the Civil War. The South maintained its right to hold human beings in slavery. The federal government denied that

right. The South was defeated and men were free.

We recall that bit of history for the benefit of a Congress that year by year shows greater contempt for the rights of human beings. And under Section 14 of the Taft-Hartley Act it is selling human beings back into slavery.

One war was fought on that question. Must another be fought?

Does Congress think that American workers will passively surrender their right to organize and bargain collectively? If it does, it has indeed forgotten history.

History tells the bitter story of union organization. It tells how men fought and died for their right to improve their economic conditions. They fought against entrenched employers, armies of deputy sheriffs and even troops.

They went to prison, to the hospital and to the cemetery.

Men have not changed.

They will do these things again.

We are not making threats. We are stating facts. And it is a fact—a grim and terrifying fact—that if Congress or anybody else attempts to drive the union shop from the remaining 35 states, this nation will enter an era of violent upheaval that will shake it to its foundations.

Our form of free government was born in one revolution. We do not want to see it die in another. Yet it could not survive the chaos that is inevitable, if the present conspiracy against millions of American workers continues. We would emerge as a police state pat-

turned after the equally vicious regime of Russia or Spain.

Which we got would matter not. The choice would be that of a man sentenced to Sing Sing or Walla Walla.

Already 30 states have enacted various degrees of restrictive labor legislation. Thirteen have banned the union shop.

The Taft-Hartley Act prohibits only the closed shop. Yet under Section 14, it recognizes the laws of the 13 states that have gone still further and prohibited the union shop.

Perhaps Congress doesn't know the difference. So let us point out that under the closed shop the employer can hire only a worker who already belongs to the union.

Under the union shop he can hire whoever he pleases but the worker must join the union within a specified time.

The only other kind of a shop is the open shop. In effect, it is usually a closed shop against union men. Employers usually hire non-union men in preference to union men under the open shop.

For decades the primary objective of labor has been to eliminate the open shop. Labor insisted on the security of the union shop with its higher pay and better working conditions based on contracts between the union and the employer.

Under the open shop it is impossible to maintain or enforce union contracts.

Congress took a long step backward when it wrote Section 14 of the Taft-Hartley Act. It was an open invitation to the states to write their own ticket.

These 13 have already done so—Arizona, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Iowa, Maine, Nebraska, North Carolina, North Dakota, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas and Virginia.

At first the board included six other states in its sweeping decision. It said it would not hold union shop elections in the additional states of Colorado, Delaware, Kansas, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Wisconsin.

Later it changed its mind and removed those states from its list. These six states have laws that are so stringent that the board thought they came under Section 14. Evidently they do not—quite.

Strenuous effort will be made to bring them under Section 14 when their legislatures convene.

Legislatures meet in most states next January and the fight of labor must be waged in the state capitols from Boston to Baton Rouge.

The strategy of Congress is obvious. It wants to spread labor's forces and make them fight simultaneously on 40 fronts instead of being able to mobilize their full strength in Washington.

It permits individual congressmen and senators to shrug their shoulders and evade responsibility during the campaign. They think they can escape responsibility by saying—"It's a state law, not a federal law. I had nothing to do with it."

But they did have something to do with it. They wrote Section 14 into the Taft-Hartley Act. They not only put their approval on state laws which prohibit the union shop, but they actually invited other states to write the same kind of laws.

And then they wrote a provision into the Taft-Hartley Act making it a crime for labor unions to tell their members which congressmen and senators voted for that law.

This provision has been challenged by a federal court and will probably be thrown out by the supreme court.

But it shows the intent of Congress, and its contemptible cowardice.

After banning the closed shop, Congress thought it would kill the union shop by permitting it only in cases where a majority of those involved voted for it.

In that section of the law Congress adopted another revolutionary principle comparable to the poll tax laws in the South. The Taft-Hartley Act says that the union shop must be approved not by a majority of those voting but by a majority of those *eligible* to vote.

That means that every worker who does not vote at all is actually voting against the union shop.

Congress thought it had pulled a nifty with that. It believed the reactionaries who said that most people belonged to unions only because they were forced to belong and that if they had the right to vote a secret ballot, they would throw out the unions.

As usual, Congress was wrong.

Out of 6,000 elections held since the Taft-Hartley Act went into effect last summer, the unions lost only 50.

Many of the elections lost were in small plants where the union was defeated by a narrow margin, in some instances by votes that were not even cast.

But in the other 5,550 elections the unions were victorious by the overwhelming average of 84 per cent of the

eligible voters. Congress must now know that union men belong to unions from choice and that they demand the protection of the union shop.

But they can't have it in 13 states. They can't even vote on it.

The sponsors of the Taft-Hartley Act argued that it would reduce labor trouble.

They pointed to the record for 1947 showing fewer strikes as proof of their statement.

They overlooked the fact that most union men were working under contracts which are now expiring. The year of 1948 will tell a different story.

As contracts run out, employers are taking advantage of the Taft-Hartley Act to get tough. They are refusing wage increases. They are even insisting on wage reductions while the cost of living chases corporation profits into the clouds.

The balance of 1948 is filled with forebodings. The outlook is dark. And it is a hardy man who will look into 1949 without qualms.

Strikes—rough, bitter strikes—are in prospect. Labor is restive. It knows it is being ganged up on. But it does not yet realize the extent of the conspiracy or the vindictiveness of its foes.

Once the working man understands that his enemies are trying to put him back in an open shop, look out! After that, the deluge!

We Should Send Arms to Israel

Things happen fast these days. Between editions of this publication a new nation has appeared and a new war has started.

The nation of Israel has emerged from the conflict in the Holy Land and the savage Arab legions have launched a war of annihilation against the Jews.

The United States has recognized Israel. We should supply it with the arms to defend itself.

However, many influential interests in this country oppose helping the Jews. They fear we will offend the Arabs. The Arabs have oil. And oil, of course, is thicker than blood.

"Splinter" Party Elected Wilson

President Truman Underestimates Wallace Danger

By DANIEL J. TOBIN

I WAS much interested in a news flash coming over the radio the other day from Washington, where President Truman told his press conference that "splinter" political organizations never amounted to anything.

By the word "splinter" he meant a small branch of one of the political parties pulling away and forming an independent political organization or a third or fourth party.

President Truman surely must have forgotten history, especially the history of the Democratic party in our country.

Of course, we don't think he did forget. His purpose in making the statement was to allay the minds of women and men, especially those in the Democratic party, by assuring them the Wallace movement could not amount to anything.

What we want to say is this: that the President must have forgotten the Bull Moose party started by Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt was the candidate for the presidency and Hiram Johnson was the candidate for the position of vice-president.

Woodrow Wilson was then governor of New Jersey, and a great governor, one of the finest men that was ever governor of any state.

All the big interests in the Democratic party tried to cheat him out of the nomination in Baltimore in 1912, but he won and was the nominee of the Democratic party.

William Howard Taft, then President of the United States, was a can-

didate for reelection. We all know what happened.

I campaigned in many of the middle western states and I lent all my power as editor of our journal in the columns of that publication towards the election of Woodrow Wilson.

He cleaned out the rotten, corrupt Nugent gang in New Jersey and he instituted laws in favor of labor in that state that challenged the attention of the nation.

I loved him because he was a friend of the common man and had the courage to back up his beliefs even to the extent of denouncing those within the Democratic party whom he knew were not democratic except in name, such as Charley Murphy of New York, Roger Sullivan of Chicago and Tom Taggart of Indiana.

What we want to say is that the Bull Moose party was a splinter party but without it, we had no more chance of electing Woodrow Wilson than we had of electing Eugene Debs on the Socialist ticket.

Whatever votes Henry Wallace gets, if he is still a candidate next November, will not come out of the Republican party but will come from the votes that usually go to the Democratic party.

Yes, it is true that many of the Communists will vote for Wallace. They should. He is working hard to try to excuse the actions of the Russian government and many of the Socialists who normally vote for the Socialist candidate will vote for Henry Wallace.

But it is my judgment at this time that he will get other votes and, I repeat, they will come out of the ranks of the independent voters who have been supporting the Democratic party.

So we can't laugh it off, in order to appease our friends or dismiss it as a "splinter" party as President Truman did.

I read a good deal of the arguments from the other side. I get in my office

the publications of the Manufacturers' Association and other business organizations and I know how they feel.

Every enemy of labor today is praying that nothing will happen to keep Wallace from running on his splinter party ticket for the presidency, because they know that such action will weaken the Democratic candidates and strengthen the candidates, both state and national, of the Republican party.

Allow 90 Days for Delivery of New File Cabinets

The process of converting to the new system of bookkeeping is being accomplished gradually by the local union secretary-treasurers. Those locals that are contemplating conversion are advised that they should allow 90 days for delivery of the metal cabinets that hold the ledger cards.

This request for time is made because of the national steel shortage which is affecting the manufacture of the cabinets. Don't wait till the first of the year—order now, General Secretary-Treasurer John F. English urges.

The ledger cards are immediately available and should be procured in advance to set them up for use when

the cabinets arrive. An ample supply of the new type five-year, leatherette covered dues book is on hand. The membership undoubtedly will want this new dues book because of the small size. Local union secretary-treasurers are requested to stock a sufficient number to meet current and anticipated needs.

Local unions are not taking advantage of the old low price on the previous type of 200-page day book. This book can and should be used wherever possible and there is no doubt but that for some locals this book is a better type. While they last, send for them at the below-cost price of \$4.50.

Better Pay Will Attract Better Teachers

Great cries of a teacher shortage are again being heard all over the land. School leaders, and civic leaders also, are bemoaning the fact that teachers are hard to get, and that some have had to be taken who do not meet the standards we would like.

There is one great, common cause for much of this. The people who hire teachers are paying a pittance for them, and expecting to get the highest grade educators for that pittance.

If we wish to meet the teacher shortage, and get the best qualified candi-

dates for school positions, we have to quit expecting these people to work for peanuts. We must face the fact that wage rates in the schools are far too low. The measly stipend offered at present leads to one of two things—competent people quit teaching to take better paid jobs, or they stick heroically to a job which denies them a decent American standard of living. Neither is good, in the long run, for our schools.

It is time we did a real job on revising teacher pay—upward.—A. F. L. *Milwaukee Labor Press*.

Maine Local Resists Coca-Cola

Company Advertises Its Return to Open Shop

APPPLICATION for permanent employment, under open shop conditions, will be received from anyone, including striking employees who may want to apply, up to noon Thursday, May 6, and may be made by mail or in person."

This appeared in a display advertisement of The Coca-Cola Bottling Plants, Inc., of South Portland and Sanford, Maine, seeking men to replace the members of Local No. 340 of Portland who went on strike April 28.

It is clear evidence of the methods now being used by industry to get rid of unions, although few firms have been as frank as The Coca-Cola Bottling Plants, Inc., in advertising publicly their intention to operate an open shop.

From the welter of controversy occasioned by the Taft-Hartley Act has emerged the general policy of industry to destroy the union shop and substitute the open shop.

At first employers attempted to accomplish this under the section of the Taft-Hartley Act prohibiting the union shop except where it was approved in an election under auspices of the National Labor Relations Board.

This method was a failure because workers have overwhelmingly approved the union shop, refuting the statements of the sponsors of the Taft-Hartley Act, that workers did not want the union shop but were forced to accept it by labor leaders.

The way to get around this situation is demonstrated by the acts of the Coca-Cola company in Portland. The company refused to grant the union

demands, forced a strike and then proceeded to advertise for new workers as "permanent" employees.

It explains why so many employers are now practically inviting their employees to go on strike. As soon as they do, the employer can recruit new workers and the Taft-Hartley Act permits the strikebreakers to have precedence over the strikers.

Men striking for economic reasons such as wage increases or better working conditions are placed under a great disadvantage by the Taft-Hartley Act and companies like The Coca-Cola Bottling Plants are quick to take advantage of the law to destroy the unions.

President David Hastings of Local No. 340 reports that his members are making a determined fight against these conditions with the support of the rest of organized labor in Maine and a large part of the public.

The strike began after the company flatly refused a wage increase or any contract improvements.

"Coca-Cola practically invited us to strike," said Mr. Hastings.

The union had the alternative of surrendering completely or of fighting for its principles. It chose the latter course.

Immediately the company, which had pleaded poverty, burst out with a costly advertising campaign in the newspapers against the union.

Lacking the funds to match the company expenditures, Local No. 340 nevertheless made judicious use of newspaper space and printed circulars

which got its message to the public with surprisingly good results.

The union was asking for 15.3 cents increase for inside workers and an increase of \$10 weekly in the base pay of salesmen. It also asked a grievance clause in the contract providing for review of discharges, except for drinking and dishonesty.

The company rejected the raise for salesmen and the grievance clause. It agreed to a "re-evaluation" of hourly rates which included a *decrease* in the pay scale for some positions.

After the men went out, the company, in its advertising, stressed the "high wages" paid salesmen in 1947.

The union admitted that the income was good in 1947 but pointed out that this was an artificial condition which would not continue through 1948. Last year the salesmen's income was raised by the sale of coolers, rationed until a year ago. This had created a six-year backlog and the demand for coolers raised the income last year. Now the demand has been supplied and the salesmen's income is dropping.

Coca-Cola insists that it continue to drop.

For years preceding organization of the Coca-Cola plants in April, 1947, the inside plant workers had been receiving only 52 cents an hour. Local No. 340 won them a substantial raise. But that was before the Taft-Hartley Act.

Now, spurred by the new law, Coca-Cola has set out to throw out the union and start the wage scales down to open shop levels.

It is another instance of a corporation attacking the rights and living standards of its workers.

The Maine Teamsters are resisting desperately. They are making a valiant fight against great odds. They are entitled to the public support they have received.

When small unions like Local No. 340 fight so bravely to maintain the principles of unionism on the economic frontier of America, they provide their brothers throughout the rest of the nation with inspiration in the tremendous conflict that is facing all of us.

German War Makers Treated Tenderly

Really bad news from Germany. A United States tribunal has acquitted young Krupp, and 11 other directors of the Krupp munitions combine, on the ground that there was not sufficient evidence to prove they assisted in "plotting an aggressive war." Other charges are pending but the defendants are rejoicing. They feel complete "vindication" is in sight.

Really, there is nothing surprising about that story. From the day Germany collapsed, it has been clear that powerful influences in this country and Great Britain were determined to save

the top-notchers among German financiers and industrialists.

The Krupps were the worst of the outfit. They headed the combine which put Hitler in power, and they supplied the weapons with which he almost won the war.

Nevertheless, the judges solemnly declared the evidence was "not sufficient."

So now Krupp and his associates are turned loose, and with the aid of American and British business, will proceed to "rehabilitate Germany."—*The Union Leader, Chicago.*

N. Y. Truck Strike Threatened

Local No. 282 Amassing Huge Fund to Prevent Pay Cut

PROSPECT of a bitter truck strike in New York City in September loomed last month when Local No. 282 was warned by the employers not to expect a wage increase when its contract expires on August 31.

Instead, there would be a wage decrease, the employers warned.

President John O'Rourke of Local No. 282 immediately laid the matter before his membership and recommended a special assessment of \$5 per member per week to prepare for the emergency.

The membership accepted the challenge and voted unanimously to assess themselves.

Local No. 282 has 8,500 members, which means that the assessment will bring in \$42,500 per week. By the time the contract expires the special strike fund will reach the huge total of \$765,000.

"In view of the attitude of the employers, we cannot ignore the likelihood of a strike," Mr. O'Rourke said. "We must prepare ourselves for it and have ample funds at our disposal when our contract expires, in case the employers attempt to make good their threat to reduce wages.

"We won the strike of 1946 by having enough money to pay benefits of

\$35 per week. In these days of inflated living costs, men on strike must be assured of sufficient funds to feed their families and to keep a roof over their heads.

"Local No. 282 intends to be prepared to take care of its members if they are forced to strike."

The local union has contracts with 300 employers involving both local cartage and over-the-road operations. The employers are members of the Motor Carriers' Association of New York.

Of the 8,500 members in Local No. 282, approximately 3,800 are involved in the general trucking contracts with the employer association.

The attitude of the New York employers coincides with that of employers in other cities and seems to be part of a general move by industry to take advantage of the Taft-Hartley Act and force unions into a terrific fight for their lives.

It would be advisable for all local unions to immediately set up defense funds, the size to be determined by their local needs. There is nothing like a healthy defense fund to make employers think twice before inviting a strike. A union that is unprepared is inviting trouble.

St. Paul Locals Help March of Dimes

Three St. Paul Teamster locals cooperated during the March of Dimes to blanket the city in the most successful campaign the infantile paralysis drive ever produced, according to Business Agent William Gydesen of the St. Paul

Trades and Labor Assembly. Mr. Gydesen wrote to International headquarters to report the fine work done by the dairy, bakery, brewery and soft drink drivers in Locals Nos. 409, 546 and 993 of St. Paul.

This Congressman's Face is Red

His Own Employees Rebuke Him in Union Election

WHEN the truck drivers employed by the Ballard & Ballard Flour Mills of Louisville voted unanimously for a union shop contract, it gave Local No. 89 more satisfaction than all the other elections they have won under the Taft-Hartley Act.

Because the flour milling company is operated by the family of Congressman Thruston Ballard Morton, one of the new Republican congressmen from Kentucky, reports Secretary-Treasurer Pat Ansboury of Local No. 89.

Morton was one of the ardent supporters of the Taft-Hartley Act and spent much of his time proclaiming that if union men ever had the privilege of voting in a secret ballot, they would throw the unions out.

They did not throw the unions out, and they were especially emphatic about it in Morton's own company.

The vote at Ballard & Ballard was similar to that held in many other elections involving members of Local No. 89, Mr. Ansboury revealed.

Out of more than 2,300 votes cast in elections covering the employees of upwards of 100 companies, Local No. 89 has won every one by near-unanimous margins.

In fact, only nine votes have been cast against the union shop.

One of the larger elections won by Local No. 89 covered 460 over-the-road drivers and 294 local cartage employees of 49 Louisville companies. The over-the-road men voted 100 per cent for the union and only four local cartage men voted against it.

One of the biggest surprises* for the employers was the vote on May 21 for

A. & P. workers. This company was organized two years ago following a strike of Kentucky Transport drivers, a subsidiary of A. & P., that shut down the grocery operations.

Men like Congressman Morton were confident that these employees "forcibly organized," would show their resentment at the first chance. It came on May 21.

And the vote? Out of 105 eligible voters at A. & P., 101 turned out to vote for the union. There were no negative votes. And out of 109 Kentucky Transport workers, 106 voted, all of them for the union. Three failed to vote.

Mr. Ansboury gives credit for this remarkable result to Paul Priddy, the young president of Local No. 89.

"Paul had charge of these men and he did a wonderful job of union salesmanship," Mr. Ansboury said.

"The secret of our success has been that whenever we organize a new company we begin to educate the workers in unionism.

"The result is that we have intelligent union men who have confidence in their union. They have seen their wage rise steadily and their working conditions improve. They know it was possible only because they joined the union and gave it their support."

For months the business agents of Local No. 89 have been contacting the members, explaining the importance of voting in union shop elections. Absentees are counted as voting against the union, under the Taft-Hartley Act.

In connection with their campaign

for union voting, the business agents also carried on a campaign for voting in the general elections.

So Local No. 89 is also ready for the

national election in November. Its members are registered and they intend to vote with the same discernment they showed in their union shop elections.

Would Speed Scientific Research

Senator Magnuson Demands Action by Government

By SENATOR WARREN G. MAGNUSON

THE blast that jolted us into the atomic era dealt this country of ours a bad blow, in one specific way.

It gave too many people the too-comfortable feeling that the peace was won for all time, and the accompanying pleasant feeling that we had proved ourselves head and shoulders above all others in the field of science.

Several million Americans are sleeping too soundly at night as the result. They feel, securely, that we are in "possession" of the atom bomb. Several million Frenchmen once made the same mistake behind their Maginot Line. They woke up to the terrible truth too late.

For over three years some of us here have been striving to repair the damage to our sense of balance. With luck, we may succeed this year. We can do it, at least in part, by the creation of a national science foundation.

This is the bill that would put 145,000,000 of us behind the scientists and budding scientists of this country. Most of us would participate first as taxpayers. All of us would gain, in time, by way of new marvels that science can bring into being.

The National Science Foundation bill has its technicalities, but its objectives can be summed up under two major objectives. The first, to establish a system of scholarships and fellowships in science for promising stu-

dents who might otherwise bog down in the sheer struggle of making a living. Next, to throw government funds and leadership behind that basic scientific research which is a "must" to progress.

The accent, under part two, is on the word "basic." We must recharge our scientific batteries, drained by the war.

We did as well as could be expected in wartime, but we drew heavily on the reservoir of basic scientific knowledge. As an eminent scientist told me recently, "we were in pretty fair shape when war came, so far as our background knowledge was concerned. But during the war years we had a run on the bank, and just about hit bottom. We need new reserves of knowledge behind the scientific frontier—and we need them badly."

He was speaking of what Dr. Vannevar Bush had termed "Science—The Endless Frontier," in his now famous report by that name.

Such knowledge was the margin of safety that meant the difference between victor and vanquished in our war with the Axis. In 1940, the British, using radar, found it to be the vital margin for the outnumbered Royal Air Force.

In 1943, our fleet fell back upon that margin and found it in the proximity fuse, which became the equalizer, and better, against air power based on land. The field artillery found the proximity

fuse, "the bullet with a brain," the vital margin factor in the brunt of the German attack during the Battle of the Bulge.

We were doing all right. But Germany, strong in scientific skill, was not sitting still. They made spectacular advances in the field of high speed aerodynamics. They did not have time to reach all their goals. Among their projects were guided missiles, jet-propelled missiles, supersonic aircraft and missiles, and jet-propelled aircraft.

Given a handful of months, the air would have been deadly with developments beyond their formidable sky-rocket, the V-2.

They developed skills in ways that proved fantastic to even our own capable scientists. Among other things, they took hydrogen peroxide, generally thought of mostly in this country as a hair bleach, and put it to uses calculated to turn the hair of nations snow white.

As is commonly known, hydrogen peroxide is a drugstore item valuable in producing oxygen. The fact that it breaks down into oxygen and water was useful, scientifically, in supplying oxygen to burn with fuel in submerged submarines.

In such highly diluted form, it is dangerous to handle. The Germans waived the danger, and produced highly concentrated solutions. Submarine experts had thought that speeds of 10 knots for a submerged submarine was highballing. Germany was on the way to *doubling* that speed.

And hydrogen peroxide made their V-2 rocket possible as well.

These facts, of course, deal with *applied* science. It should be made clear there are two fundamental distinctions between this and the objec-

tives of the National Science Foundation. The foundation would aim:

1. To provide fundamental knowledge in the various scientific fields, including medicine, for the uses and purposes of peace.

2. To confine its *applied* aspects to the requirements of national security.

It would have nothing to do with atomic research, other than for such correlation as might be in order. It would not be an operating agency. Operations would be carried on by contract with the universities and laboratories of the nation.

Yet it might well lead to the mastery of such problems as heart disease, or cancer, or the elimination of the last vestige of danger in flying.

As the Germans in wartime developed "40 thousand daily cowpower" factories to make butter from coal, so might the answer to the petroleum shortage be found in peacetime.

Should this happen, the creation of a national science foundation will have been well worth while.

I believe that the legislation should be passed. I have thought so since well before that day in July, 1945, a month before the atom bomb plunged downward upon Hiroshima, when I introduced the bill calling for its creation.

The bill had a worth-while background. One year before, Franklin D. Roosevelt had asked Dr. Bush, head of the wartime Office of Scientific Research and Development, for suggestions that might strengthen science in peacetime.

Committees made up of experts in various fields went to work on the specific questions President Roosevelt had asked. They assisted Dr. Bush in the study. The result was the report: "Science—The Endless Frontier."

Their recommendations were written into legislative form. They were included in the bill I introduced, calling for establishment of a national research foundation.

Other legislation, having a similar objective, had been introduced. We started hearings in October of 1945 in the Senate. Witnesses who streamed to the hearing included atom bomb makers, educators, cabinet members, speakers for labor and industry and the clergy.

Almost unanimously, they said the foundation was urgently needed.

They answered one question, as to why the federal government, at long last, should sponsor science. The answer was that the great endowments that had supported research in the past were no longer available or equal to pursuits that had passed the milestone

of infancy with the advent of the atomic age.

Other nations were behind their scientists. To keep up with the parade, we should follow suit.

The 79th Congress adjourned after the bill passed the Senate. Since the House had not taken action, it died on the vine.

Last year, the new Congress passed the bill calling for the national science foundation. The President found it objectionable for several reasons, outlined in his veto message.

Again the bill has passed the Senate. It is awaiting action in the House. We believe, while it may not be perfect, it is a start in the right direction.

We know that it will give a helping hand to the talented youngsters of today who can be the scientists of tomorrow.

Reciprocal Trade Agreements Are Vital

Determined to wipe out every benefit of the New Deal, reactionaries are now attacking the reciprocal trade agreements negotiated by Cordell Hull as a step toward removing the economic tensions which cause depressions and wars.

If Congress destroys the reciprocal trade agreements, this country takes

another step backward, toward the days of high tariffs and low wages.

This is another phase of the reactionary program to cuddle monopoly with special legislation. All the benefits labor won in the years of Roosevelt are to be destroyed. The era of Harding and Hoover is to be restored.

Want to sell apples on street corners?

Won't Picket a Man When He is Down

Refusing to picket a man when he is down, Local No. 536 of Hartford withdrew its pickets from the food store of Albert H. Hodgetts.

Hodgetts was injured in an automobile accident on May 17 which hospitalized him. The following day Secretary-Treasurer Henry C. Dauphinais of Local No. 536 withdrew the pickets.

The store had been picketed by the Teamsters because it was selling the

milk of the General Ice Cream dairies against which the union has been on strike since March 2, when the corporation imported non-union men to take the jobs of the union men then at work.

On learning of the accident, Mr. Dauphinais declared a truce so far as Hodgetts' store was concerned.

"He has enough trouble," the union official explained.

Compulsory Arbitration Looms

Seizure of Railroads Under 1916 Law Reveals Plan

By DANIEL J. TOBIN

WELL, the labor movement has almost reached the stage where some organizations at least will be compelled by the government to accept compulsory arbitration.

This has been demonstrated in the decision of the government to force the railroad workers back to work; also, the Mine Workers.

By invoking a law passed in 1916 when Europe was at war and even before the United States entered into war, the President has the power to decide that whenever the public interests are endangered or the nation inconvenienced by strikes the federal government can take over the industry or labor organization involved.

No organization can possibly defy this law because you cannot defeat the United States government.

Unions having the power to tie up the nation should carefully weigh and understand how far-reaching this law can become and remember that it remains at the discretion of the President to say that the public welfare is endangered.

It is all right if you have a President who is fair or sympathetic with the workers. The danger is that some time we may have a President such as we have had in the past, before and after the election of Woodrow Wilson; a President who may favor corporations, the press and the outspoken enemies of labor as represented in the National Association of Manufacturers.

We may have a President who would say if the Milk Drivers were to strike

in New York or the Bakery Drivers in Chicago that such a strike was a serious menace to the public welfare.

Of course, I am going to be advised that such a thing could not happen, that a strike of the truck drivers in San Francisco is not a menace to the public welfare and that it never was intended that it be so interpreted.

We have heard those things before but when the elephant gets the tip of his trunk inside your tent he soon moves in his body.

Invoking this law is the entering wedge towards forcing down the throats of labor compulsory arbitration. The labor movement has fought against this for years because compulsory arbitration or laws permitting the government to take over, are nothing more or less than making men and women work against their will.

We thought we freed labor after the Civil War when Lincoln declared that labor was free. As a result of what has happened within the last year or so in oppressing labor, we are bringing back again the conditions that we thought we had abolished by law after years of agitation.

Personally, I am not surprised at what is happening now. As a matter of fact, I expect conditions to get worse for labor because, as I have said before, labor, while more highly organized than ever before, is not half organized. And it is divided into several groups. There is no uniformity or unity within the ranks of labor. Each group

and many organizations in each group consider only themselves and they certainly state by their actions, "we are looking out for ourselves and the devil take the hindmost."

Perhaps when labor is more thoroughly persecuted, as it will be by its enemies who are now in power and who may strengthen their reins after the next general election in November, labor leaders who are now fighting each other may decide to form one organization.

Those leaders who are blinded with ambition and hungry for publicity may wake up to the fact that to save themselves and their own organizations, they must set aside their personal feelings and decide to form one strong, aggressive labor movement in our country.

This would not only include the CIO,

but all the other independent unions that are now tearing the labor movement apart.

We hope and pray that unless those leaders realize the danger and make those sacrifices and use their constructive energies to bring this about, the masses of their membership will turn against them and replace them with other men.

If they refuse to see the light, if they continue hacking at each other while the enemy is gloating at his success in destroying the power of labor unions, then it will be only a few years before their organizations will be thoroughly weakened or destroyed. The curse of all this is that the good, faithful members will suffer because of the selfishness and blind ambitions of a few of their so-called representatives, who can only see today and not tomorrow.

Be Familiar With Your International Laws

General Secretary-Treasurer John F. English urges every member of this organization to familiarize himself with the laws of the Teamsters' Union.

Ignorance of these laws is reflected in the extremely slow turnover of the International constitution at International headquarters. This booklet, which contains all the International

rules and regulations, should be in the possession of every member. Available at 10 cents per copy, they can be procured at once from the local union secretary-treasurer. Buy one and read up on your union. Local union secretary-treasurers should order sufficient copies of the constitution to meet the anticipated demand.

Parcel Service Employees Want Union

With almost monotonous regularity the working men of the New York City area are continuing to turn in huge majorities in favor of the union shop.

Secretary-Treasurer Edward Conway of Local No. 804 of New York City has reported the outcome of an election of employees of the United Parcel Service belonging to his local and to Local No. 138 of Brooklyn and Locals No. 177 and 478 of Newark,

N. J. It was a sensational triumph.

The vote was 2,832 to 16. Only 70 men failed to vote, despite the fact that the election was not contested and everyone knew that the outcome would be close to unanimous.

The small percentage of men not voting in such elections is convincing proof that they are determined to make an official record in the government files of their loyalty to their unions.

N. J. Employer Outwits Himself

Local No. 680 of Newark Wins 10-Year Tug-of-War

NINETY new members of Local No. 680 of Newark, N. J., have discovered that organization pays dividends while their employer has discovered that interference with a union election carries a penalty.

For 10 years Local No. 680 had tried to organize the employees, according to President Larry McGinley and Secretary-Treasurer John H. Webster.

The employees during that time used the union as a club against the company. Repeatedly they would ask the union to send an organizer to see them.

When the union did so, the employees would inform the company that they were about to join the Teamsters. In order to prevent it, the company made concessions.

The employees thought they had worked out a pretty good system of using Local No. 680 to scare the company. They also thought that they were gaining major benefits without joining the union. Now they know that the concessions the company gave them were trivial and that for 10 years they deprived themselves of thousands of dollars in wage increases.

They thought they were outsmarting the union. Instead, they were outsmarting themselves.

Last November the employees made one of their periodic requests for a Teamster organizer to visit them.

Having had enough of such foolishness, Local No. 680 refused.

"We have met with you repeatedly in the belief that you sincerely wanted to join the union," Mr. McGinley told them. "We have found that you were just using us for suckers. We will not

talk to you again unless you agree to sign application blanks for membership in Local No. 680."

The men agreed and Business Agent Richard Keber appeared at a meeting attended by 33 employees. They all signed application blanks. Within the next two days 40 more men signed.

Mr. Keber then notified the company that the union represented the employees and asked to negotiate a contract.

In December the company demanded a representation election which the union won, 60 to 24.

The union then went into negotiation and by January 25 had worked out the best wage scale and working conditions the employees had ever received, according to Mr. Webster.

The drivers received a five-day week with a substantial increase in commissions while the inside help received increases and a guaranteed work week of 48 hours, the last eight hours at overtime pay.

The contract was approved by the membership and only the formality of a union shop election remained before the company signed.

The union shop election was set for February 25.

In the intervening month the company decided upon a strange course of action. It attempted to arouse dissatisfaction among the employees, believing they would then vote against the union shop and thereby give the company an excuse for not signing the contract.

Stooges of the company began criticizing provisions of the contract, claim-

ing they were not liberal enough. Unrest broke out among the employees and the company smiled in the seeming success of its plot.

On February 22, three days before the election, Mr. McGinley called a meeting of the members. He listened to all the objections.

Finally it boiled down to six new conditions which the men desired, all of them inspired by the company.

"All right," said Mr. McGinley, "if you want them, we will get them for

you but you cannot get them without a strike. If you are serious and willing to strike, we will go through with it."

The men voted to strike and the strike was called for February 25, the day of the election. The union won the election by a vote of 73 to 8 and on February 27 the strike ended with the company granting all demands.

Now the men are wondering why they didn't join the union 10 years ago.

And the company is wondering why it didn't leave well enough alone.

Radio Cuts Off President from West Coast

A few nights ago the President of the United States delivered a speech in which he said many things of national significance. The President's lieutenants believed they had arranged for a national radio hookup. Next day they discovered that the people of the Pacific Coast, or at least the greater part of that area, didn't hear the President. Someone had shut him off.

If some radio magnate, by merely pushing a button, can make it impossible for the President of the United States to reach the people of this country, what is likely to happen to any other public man whose message does not please the gentlemen who, in various ways, have succeeded in securing control of the people's air waves?

It must always be remembered that radio belongs to the people and that the interests which use radio don't pay a penny for that highly profitable privilege. Therefore, there is nothing un-

reasonable in the suggestion that the people, the owners of radio, should have some voice in how the property is managed.

As things are now, they have practically no voice. Since the first radio bill was enacted by Congress, the broadcasters have "owned" a majority of the members of every commission appointed to regulate radio. The record will fully sustain that charge.

To make matters worse, certain big newspapers have been permitted to get a grip on important radio outlets. The result is that a few men—most of them totally lacking in social vision—control most of our newspapers and most of our radio stations.

They are so confident they even "black out" the President of the United States! They can put the "silencer" on any speaker, or any cause, they see fit. What are the American people going to do about it?—*Labor*.

DO LABOR'S ENEMIES WANT VIOLENCE?

Apparently the enemies of labor want a return to the days when picket line violence was the rule, not the exception. If that is so, they will find the workers ready to meet any sort of attack they make. Labor will not, and can not, stand by while the bosses, backed up by the government, wreck the trade union movement. This is a fight to the finish!—*Seafarers' Log*.

Rail Injunction Story Doubted

President Tobin Questions Report of Conference

By DANIEL J. TOBIN

READ in the paper recently an article by Drew Pearson which reads as follows:

"BEHIND THE RAILROAD INJUNCTION"

"Story behind the government's last-minute injunction against the threatened railroad strike is the fact that the three Brotherhood leaders themselves actually urged this move in a very frank conference with Presidential Assistant John R. Steelman just after the President seized the railroads.

"Two of the leaders, Robertson of the Firemen and Enginemen and Johnston of the Engineers, even told Steelman they would not put up to their strike committees the question of going back to work.

" 'You know what we're up against,' declared Johnston.

" 'We have our own problems. We are under pressure from all sides. If we asked the men to remain on the job with a lot of these questions still deadlocked, some members might think we haven't done our best for them, which isn't the case, as you know.'

"Therefore, explained the leaders, only the issuance of a court order by the federal government would satisfy the more aggressive elements in the rail brotherhoods."

If the statement made by Pearson is correct, it looks as though certain officers of the railroad unions who had voted to go on strike invited the injunction by the government.

The interpretation of such an action, if it is based on facts, would be that the officials were trying to get out from under in some way.

If Pearson's statement is not truthful it should be denied at once. I am wondering where Pearson got the information. Surely the Brotherhood officials did not give it out and there was no one else in the conference except Mr. Steelman.

At any rate, the statement, if correct or incorrect, is bad because it throws out an idea the railroad labor officials involved in this controversy were somewhat doubtful of the support of their membership.

We do not believe that the railroad union officials would solicit the government to take over the railroads in order to escape responsibility, but if such a condition prevailed, we are wondering who gave out the information of what transpired in a secret conference in the White House which was supposed to be very, very confidential and at which there were present only railroad union officials and one representative of the President.

This writer was around long enough in the White House to know there is always a great need of watching the publicity hounds who may be craving for a chance to do a favor for some newspaper friend. So the safe method is to beware.

Without imports our economy would come to a standstill. In the field of minerals alone we are absolutely dependent upon heavy imports to keep our industrial plants operating. . . . Through Reciprocal Trade Agreements our nation can be assured access to the source of supply of these raw materials.—President George M. Harrison, Brotherhood of Railway Clerks.

How Industry Conceals Profits

Manufacturers Report Earnings on Sales, Not Worth

By OLIVER HOYEM

ARE you a sucker for a siren song? Try this one. Quarterly financial statements of big corporations appearing in full-page newspaper advertisements try to make it appear that current profits are not exorbitant and are not a threat to the country's security.

It's a simple trick. Here's how it is done:

Suppose a manufacturer earns 40 per cent on his *net worth*. He fears his employees will ask for higher wages and the public will ask for lower prices.

So he tells in big newspaper type that his earnings are only 5 per cent of *sales*. It seems more reasonable. It will not fool the banks, the financial experts, nor the tax collector. Yet industry seems to think it is worth spending millions of dollars to lull the public into indifference with this siren song.

For facts not likely to be disputed by bankers, let us go to an ultra conservative source. The National City Bank of New York City tells the story to its customers in great detail.

By industry averages, it shows the high percentage return on net worth against the lower return on sales as follows:

Baking—20.2 per cent profit on net worth as against 5.4 per cent profit on sales.

Dairy—15.4 per cent on net worth; 2.5 per cent on sales.

Meat packing—12 per cent on net worth; 1.2 per cent on sales.

Cotton goods—36.1 per cent on net worth; 5.4 per cent on sales.

Paint and varnish—19 per cent on net worth; 5.8 on sales.

Building, heating and plumbing equipment—19 per cent on net worth; 7.5 per cent on sales.

Autos and trucks—20.8 per cent on net worth; 6.5 per cent on sales.

Auto parts—28.5 per cent on net worth; 7.2 per cent on sales.

The total of all manufacturing shows earnings of 17 per cent figured on net worth while when figured on sales it is reduced to 7.1 per cent.

You have a right to be suspicious of a financial statement that refers only to return on sales. It is used because it is a percentage that once was normal as a return on net worth or on capital invested.

It is still normal as a return on net worth for industries over which government exercises some form of supervision — National City Bank figures show that in 1947 transportation netted 8.7 per cent, public utilities 8 per cent, and finance 6.8 per cent. Of course, the percentage on sales is itself much higher than in normal years, but that fact is not advertised.

The purpose is strictly to confuse. It may serve industry temporarily in the current campaign against higher wages. But in the long run it is bad public relations.

Most persons are smart enough to audit two set of figures. Once they find that a corporation has been deliberately misleading and deceiving the public, the wildest crackpots will find attentive listeners to their schemes for government regulation of all corporations.

Milk Workers Hold Union Shop

Five Eastern Locals Indorsed in Big Election

DECLARED to be the largest union shop election yet conducted by the National Labor Relations Board, from the standpoint of the number of employers and area involved, 14,155 employees of the milk industry in the metropolitan New York area recently voted overwhelmingly for the Teamsters' Union.

The union won by a vote of 13,497 to 353.

Employers involved numbered 208 and the workers belonged to five locals of the Teamsters—Locals No. 584, 602 and 607 of New York City, Local No. 338 of Westchester county and Local No. 680 of Newark, N. J.

There were 15,265 eligible voters and the total vote cast totalled 14,155, a remarkable turnout of 92.7 per cent.

This figure is still more remarkable in view of the fact that more than 3,000 men were off duty the day of the election, according to officials of the unions.

Yet only 1,110 failed to vote.

This shows that the men were so determined to preserve their union shop that two-thirds of those off duty made the effort to vote.

Of those voting, the union received 95.4 per cent, once again disproving on a large scale the contention of Taft-Hartley Act supporters that working men are captives of their unions.

There never was any doubt about the outcome of the election. Even so, the bulk of the men off duty made it a

point to show up and express their sentiments.

Under the Taft-Hartley Act, if they had failed to do so, their votes would have been cast against the union because the law stipulates that the union must receive a majority of those eligible to vote.

The ridiculous and inexcusable part of the whole thing is the expense to the government, the delay involved and the interruption of industrial operations.

The National Labor Relations Board used 179 employees to conduct an election the outcome of which was a certainty. The expense of the election was necessarily high. That expense must be borne by the taxpayers.

It was thrown upon them by reactionaries in Congress who spend most of their time demanding more economy in government and less regulation of business.

They claim that business regulation infringes on the rights of citizens. But they can see no infringement in legislation regulating labor.

In the perverse view of those who gave us the Taft-Hartley Act, regulation of business is Communism, while the regulation of labor is Americanism.

Thus the taxpayers are spending thousands of dollars for needless elections in the vain hope that union men will revolt against their unions and turn for security to their employers.

The fighters of freedom in days past were called "radicals." There should be no stigma attached to being a "radical." It takes real courage to be a radical. Many great religious teachers have been radicals. So have been the truly great in politics. Thomas Jefferson was a radical of his day. So was the first President the Republicans elected, Abraham Lincoln.—The Milk Distributor, Local No. 753, Chicago.

Jack O'Connell Dies in Frisco

Passing of Veteran Labor Leader Brings Sorrow

By DANIEL J. TOBIN

IT WAS with sorrow that we received news from San Francisco of the death of one of the finest men who ever held membership in the Teamsters' Union—John O'Connell, a lifelong member of Local No. 85 and for many years the recording secretary or the legislative agent of the Trades and Labor Council of San Francisco.

Everyone who ever knew Jack O'Connell loved him, respected him and was always anxious to meet him again. He was the life of any party. He had a faculty of telling stories that nobody else possessed.

He was my intimate friend for nearly 40 years. At one time I wanted him to go to work for the International Union but he turned it down. He did not want to leave his beloved San Francisco.

Jack O'Connell was a brilliant speaker, an able debater and in serving the many unions affiliated with the San Francisco Labor Council, he knew his way around better than anyone I have ever met in my life.

For instance, if he went in to discuss a matter affecting the Garment Workers, the Coopers, or any other trade, he knew the conditions and he knew the manufacturers. He could recite all the facts which he held on the tips of his fingers, no matter who he was dealing with on the manufacturers' side.

He also knew the labor representatives and he did not hesitate to tell some of "those babies," as he called them, where to get off when they were going too far with either a strike or a threatened strike.

That is why he was exceptional, because he always had the courage to speak his mind and he had the advantage of knowing everybody both in business and in labor all around San Francisco. He knew the personal history of every member of the state legislature and he did not hesitate to tell them what they owed to labor and what they could expect if they double-crossed their friends.

Those of our delegates who were at the International convention in San Francisco last August can remember how active he was and how helpful he was to all of us. He never said "No" to any member of our union on anything that he was able to do to help them.

He also went through the convention of the American Federation of Labor in October and I have no hesitancy in saying to you that President Green, Secretary Meany and nearly all members of the executive council fell back on Jack O'Connell when any perplexing question arose.

I can see him now addressing our convention and telling his funny stories which he intermingled with some real facts pertaining to our organization.

When I received the message of his death I was at home laid up with a cold for a few days and this sad news set me back a day or two.

He was an humble man. He never had any money to speak of because he never received a large salary. But he was a real man, the salt of humankind and one of the most reliable, trustworthy, sincere trade unionists that I have met during my lifetime.

I know that he will receive his reward in the great beyond because there is justice in Almighty God, whom I believe rewards men who have never been rewarded on earth.

When I go to San Francisco again it will not be the same place for me with O'Connell not there to meet me at the train or in the hotel upon my arrival,

but some day, some time, I expect to meet him in the land where there is no parting.

Farewell, dear Jack, from your friends in the labor movement, but especially from all those in the International Brotherhood of Teamsters who had the good fortune and the pleasure of meeting you.

New Jersey Union Wins in 12 Communities

In a union shop election held in 12 communities of New Jersey, Local No. 680 of Newark won the indorsement of the office, ice cream and milk workers at 28 plants.

Out of 693 eligible voters, 655 voted for the Teamsters. Only 19 negative votes were cast. Nineteen more employees failed to vote.

In the office division Local No. 680 won 95 to 2 and in the ice cream division the vote was 406 to 16. The milk group rolled up the nearly unanimous vote of 154 to 1.

The area covered by the election ex-

tended from Trenton to Hackensack.

It involved 30 separate plant and group elections. Some of the election groups contained only three or four persons. Some employers hoped that through failure to vote, the union might lose several of the small plants or offices.

In this way a wedge would have been driven into the union contract which covered all the operations.

The hopes, however, were unfulfilled. In the small groups every eligible employee voted and they voted unanimously for Local No. 680.

Move from Downtown Areas, Urges Trucker

Declaring city traffic congestion is costing American business men and consumers millions of dollars annually, John V. Lawrence, managing director of the American Trucking Association, Inc., has pointed the way to removal of a major cause of traffic congestion through the decentralization of

business activities and offices. He told the Rhode Island Truck Owners' Association that motor carrier executives all over the country must join in a selling program to convince business men of the advisability of locating their offices away from congested downtown areas.

Labor Department Has Enough Constitutions

It is not necessary for local unions to send a copy of the International Constitution to the U. S. Department of Labor in complying with the Taft-Hartley Act.

The International Union has already done so.

Director William L. Connolly does not want any more copies of our constitution. He has too many now. He has just returned to International headquarters several hundred which were sent in by local unions.

Lay off, he pleads.

NLRB Sustains Tulsa Teamsters

Finds Company Guilty in Decertification Election

INDICATIVE of the increasingly savage attitude of employers toward unions, the National Labor Relations Board has found the Beatrice Foods Company of Tulsa guilty of six acts of unfairness in a decertification election involving Local No. 523.

Beatrice Foods is a subsidiary of Meadow Gold Creameries.

An order setting aside the result of the election, which the Teamsters lost by a vote of 98 to 81, was issued by Director Edwin A. Elliott of the 16th NLRB region on May 10.

The election was held on January 7.

Secretary-Treasurer Gordon L. Shryock of Local No. 523 immediately protested the election and made several specific charges against the company.

The board made an investigation and found many flagrant acts by the company which, the board said, "interfered with the employees' free, unrestrained choice in the election."

On the basis of its investigation, the board sustained the objection of the union and set aside the result of the election.

Mr. Shryock was jubilant over the action and forecast that the Teamsters would easily win the new election to be held shortly.

He said that following the January 7 election, many employees of Beatrice Foods approached him and admitted they had voted against the union. They expressed their regret and said that they had yielded to pressure by the company.

The NLRB found the company committed the following acts:

1—Manager Early R. Cass made an anti-union speech at a sales meeting on January 6, the day before the election, in which he promised the employees they would receive better wages, working conditions, and more opportunities for advancement if they voted against the union.

2—At a special meeting of plant employees the same day, Cass declared that the union had gotten into the plant through misrepresentation and fraud, that he did not want the union there and that without the union, he would do more for the employees.

3—Sales Manager Sally Bringham told an employee last October that if it were not for the union, the employee would be paid for time lost because of an injury.

4—Last November Cass told a route salesman that he had an expansion program in mind which would give the salesmen better pay but that the program could not be put into effect as long as the employees belonged to the union. He further indicated that if the salesman would quit the union, he would be promoted to a supervisory job.

5—Ten days before the election Route Supervisor Charles Lee told a salesman he had been trying to get him a promotion but couldn't do it so long as he was in the union.

6—Assistant Route Supervisor Ray Eslick called a meeting of salesmen under him in his home a night or two before the election and promised them better wages and working conditions if the union was defeated in the election.

Prohibition—A Creeping Paralysis

New Strategy Would Make Nation Dry, County by County

By R. L. DAVIS

In the Catering Industry Employee

IT is urgent that every worker in our industry alert himself to the fact that Prohibition has become a national threat. Perhaps many of our members are not aware of it.

When Prohibition first hit the nation in 1919, it was preceded by a dramatic, sensational campaign. Experience with Prohibition between 1920 and 1933 thoroughly disgusted the country. That disgust still lingers in memory. Therefore today's Prohibitionists have had to go about their work more subtly. Their tactic is so-called "local control" and the "local option" election. Their method is one of creeping paralysis—whereby the country goes dry ward by ward, precinct by precinct, county by county, and state by state, until national Prohibition is a reality.

As the secretary of the Anti-Saloon League told its 34th annual convention of militant cranks: "National prohibition can be brought about by adoption of dry laws, state by state, until all states have acted and an amendment to the constitution, similar to the 18th Amendment, is not necessary."

The Prohibitionists have had great success. Three-fourths of the states already have provisions for local prohibition elections. Many states—Kentucky for example—are almost bone dry on the basis of such elections. And what should particularly interest our members who work in hotels, restaurants and licensed beverage houses: Of the 13 states which already ban on-premise sales of distilled spirits, nine are states with local control.

The Drys have opened 1948 with a bang. One of their big drives is in California, where petitions are now being circulated to bring about "local control of intoxicating liquors" through amendment to the state constitution.

The State of Washington—already in the local option class and already prohibiting the sale of liquor in hotels and restaurants—is now on the dry list for the elimination of taverns dispensing wine and beer. And these are only two important cases in a campaign that blankets the country coast to coast.

Public opinion surveys show that 70 per cent of the adult population are actually opposed to Prohibition. But the noisy minority is getting people to vote dry. How? By the sly use of lies and half-truths. By masking Prohibition as a "temperance" movement. By carrying on propaganda in the grass roots—local churches, women's clubs, veterans' groups, fraternal organizations, and even unions.

The facts and arguments to beat Prohibition are on our side. There is the basic fact that the Prohibition era did not stop people from drinking. Instead, people drank poison gin and paid heavily to gangsters for the privilege, while an illegal industry defrauded the government of billions in taxes.

On the positive side, repeal gave the country a responsible industry operating under regulation and law enforcement. Taxes collected by local, state and federal government come to over three billion dollars a year. Millions of men and women are usefully employed

in all related industries from grain processing to entertainment and dining. And an estimated 60,000,000 adults are free to enjoy the social consumption of alcoholic beverages in the moderation they actually do—without hypocrisy or sham.

Our International can be a tremendous force in the fight against Prohibition. We are half a million strong spread all over the country. There are 1½ million other trade unionists directly affected. There are 15 million union men and women whose support we can enlist.

Our members should become active in their local community groups which are the concentration points of the dries. We can convince people not to sign dry petitions. We can get our own friends and neighbors to vote sensibly. We can nail the Prohibition lie whenever and wherever it raises its slimy head, be-

cause we ourselves in our local communities are the grass roots where Prohibition operates.

Let no member of our union make any mistake about it. The dries are out to do a job—and the job will be done on us! Every cook, waiter, waitress, kitchen employee, hotel worker and bartender has a stake in the fight against Prohibition. Our crafts are so intimately related and interdependent, that the success of Prohibition will bring mass unemployment in our industry.

It's your job that's at stake! Keep alert! Learn to recognize the Prohibition line when you hear it on the radio and read it in the papers. Protest to your local station and your local editor. Get out and vote. Get your neighbors to do likewise. Read your union journal for the facts, clip them, and use them at every opportunity.

Oregon Has Professional Driver Clinic

The *Portland Oregonian*, in a full-page, color article in its Sunday magazine section, recently described in detail a newly established professional driver clinic in Oregon.

The driver clinic, sponsored by the truck operators of the state with the approval of Joint Council of Teamsters No. 37 and Teamster Local No.

162 of Portland, is one of two in the nation.

The *Oregonian's* story, liberally illustrated, depicted the progress of a professional driver through the various stages of the clinic and lauded the truck operators and Teamsters for their progressive program to promote highway safety.

Lawyers Put Squeeze on Public Accountants

Before Congress is a bill, written by the "Lawyers' Union," to give lawyers throughout the country the sole right to appear before government boards and commissions, and exclusive "jurisdiction" as income tax advisers.

One main purpose of this bill is to take profitable income tax work away from certified public accountants, who

have been doing most of it, and know far more about it than most lawyers.

The great majority of these professional men are hostile to the "closed shop" for labor unions. Yet unions get their closed shop contracts by negotiation, while the organized lawyers seek theirs by force of law.—*Alton (Ill.) Labor World*.

Example of Medical "Ethics"

AN ATTEMPT to bribe newspaper cartoonists for propaganda against public health legislation has been pinned on the National Physicians' Committee for the Extension of Medical Service—the extension of medical service for a profit, that is.

This is the organization which recently offered several thousand dollars in prizes for cartoonists attacking the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill to improve the public health.

The cartoons, however, had not only to be drawn, they had to be published. In this way the committee hoped that cartoonists would submit drawing to their newspapers attacking the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill. The committee was not interested in cartoons, unless they were printed in a newspaper or magazine of wide circulation.

The reaction to the proposal was not flattering. Several cartoonists of wholesome reputation immediately drew cartoons attacking the National Physicians' Committee instead of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill.

They resented the idea of the committee that they could be bribed.

This physicians' committee is a branch of the notorious National Committee to Uphold Constitutional Government, sponsored by Frank E. Gannett, the newspaper publisher.

The bribery episode illustrates the lengths to which "ethical" doctors will go to protect their profits. In fact, the violent hostility of the entire medical profession, including the American Medical Association, to the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill shows a complete lack of the ethics of which doctors boast.

Individually and collectively the doctors have attacked this and other measures to improve the national health as "socialized medicine."

The Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill is not socialized medicine. The medical profession knows that it is not.

But by propaganda and bribery they continue to falsely diagnose it as such.

The organized medical profession apparently considers itself the sole guardian of the public health. It preempts for itself the right to say who shall be cured and who shall remain sick.

It challenges the right of the government to establish medical attention for those who could not otherwise have it.

Doctors certainly know that disease in any community is a threat to the entire population. Doctors have been unable or unwilling to cure the diseases that afflict millions of people who cannot pay for treatment.

Has the government no right to step in where the medical profession has failed? Must people suffer and die because they have no family doctor and no money for medical treatment?

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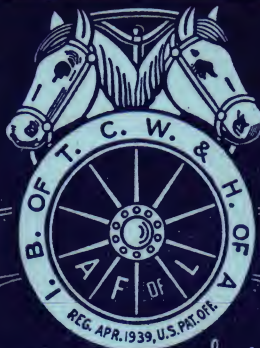
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